

Message Text

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62

ORIGIN COA-02

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APPROVED BY S/ FW- COA - STUART BLOW

EA/ K - MR. R. FINCH

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EFIS, XP, KS

SUBJECT: FISHERIES: POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS OF US- ROK AGREE-
MENT

REF: SEOUL 4158

1. DEPARTMENT OFFICER TELEPHONED ECONOMIC COUNSELOR LEE OF ROK EMBASSY JUNE 25 TO INFORM HIM OF REPORTS INDICATING ONE OR MORE KOREAN VESSELS MAY HAVE FISHED SALMON IN EASTERN BERING SEA IN VIOLATION OF US- ROK FISHERIES AGREEMENT. HE NOTED THAT THIS INITIAL APPROACH WAS FOR INFORMATION ONLY IN VIEW NATURE OF EVIDENCE NOW AVAILABLE AND THAT DEPARTMENT MIGHT BE IN FURTHER CONTACT UPON RECEIPT ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION. MEMCON POUCHED. REGRET TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY NOT PROVIDED EARLIER.

2. REPORTS FROM COAST GUARD DESCRIBED ACTIVITIES OF HAE YEON FLEET CONSISTING OF FACTORYSHIP HAE YEON 27 AND FOUR TRAWLERS, HAE YEON 51, 52, 61 AND 62. SWORN STATEMENT BY MASTER OF US FISHING VESSEL INDICATED THAT ON JUNE 17 HAE
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YEON 62 HAD RUN THROUGH US VESSEL' S CRAB POT GEAR RESULTING IN GEAR LOSSES AND THAT HAE YEON 62 HAD MOREOVER BEEN OBSERVED IN ACT OF FISHING SALMON GILLNET. IN COURSE OF INVESTIGATION US COAST GUARD CUTTER HAD COME UPON AND RETRIEVED ONE GILLNET OF 2000 FEET AND ANOTHER OF 6000 FEET, BOTH OF FIVE INCH MESH AND OF SAME TYPE OF MATERIAL AS USED BY KOREANS IN PAST SALMON FISHING. SUBSEQUENTLY CG CUTTER HAD CARRIED OUT COURTESY BOARDING OF HAE YEON 27. NO SALMON OR SALMON GILLNET FOUND IN COURSE OF PARTIAL INSPECTION BUT PERMISSION DENIED TO INSPECTION TWO HOLDS. ATTEMPTS TO BOARD TRAWLERS WERE UNSUCCESSFUL SINCE THEY REFUSED ANSWER SIGNALS FROM CUTTER AND TOOK EVASIVE ACTION.

3. LAST CONTACT WITH HAE YEON VESSELS ON OR ABOUT JUNE 23 AT WHICH TIME THEY PROCEEDING WEST- SOUTHWEST, SOUTH OF PRIBILOFS. MASTER OF HAE YEON 27 HAD STATED THAT VESSELS PROCEEDING TO VICINITY NORTH KURIL ISLANDS. IT WAS SUGGESTED TO COUNSELOR LEE THAT ROK AUTHORITIES MIGHT WISH TO INSPECT THESE VESSELS UPON RETURN TO KOREA.

4. FYI DEPARTMENT AWAITING FURTHER DOCUMENTATION INCLUDING AFFIDAVITS AND POSSIBLY PHOTOGRAPHS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHAT FURTHER ACTION MIGHT BE DESIRABLE. END FYI. ROGERS

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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